

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, UR
SUBJ: D.W. GRIFFITH RETROSPECTIVE

1. CONTACT WITH ILLYUZION FILM CLUB INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER IN
DECEMBER OF PLANS FOR D.W. GRIFFITH RETROSPECTIVE, ORGANIZED AS
PART OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN SOVIET GOSFILMOFOND AND NEW YORK MUSEUM
OF MODERN ART.

2. JANUARY 6 ANNOUNCEMENT BY TASS ON ITS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WIRE
SERVICE AND SMALL, FRONT-PAGE PIECE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 11 ISSUE
OF LITURATURNAYA GAZETA CONFIRMED OPENING OF THREE MONTH-
LONG SERIES ON GRIFFITH AT ILLYUZION THEATER IN MOSCOW. COMPRISED
OF 16 OF GRIFFITH'S MOST ACCLAIMED FILMS, INCLUDING
"ORPHANS OF THE STORM", "ABRAHAM LINCOLN," "INTOLERANCE," AND
"STREET OF DREAMS," RETROSPECTIVE IS HERALDED BY LITGAZ AS "FIRST
MAJOR STEP IN FILM ARCHIVAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SOVIET UNION
AND UNITED STATES."

3. OUR CONTACT INDICATED THAT IN RETURN FOR GRIFFITH FILMS
GOSFILMOFOND PLANS TO SEND EISENSTEIN FILMS TO U.S.
IN NEAR FUTURE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION
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AVAILABLE FROM MOMA ON ITS AGREEMENT WITH GOSFILMOFOND. WE
WILL FOLLOW PROGRESS OF RETROSPECTIVE HERE AND REPORT ON ITS
RECEPTION.

4. FYI. ILLYUZION THEATER WITH ASSISTANCE FROM GOSFILMOFOND
HAS OPERATED FILM CLUB FOR NUMBER OF YEARS. EVERY YEAR CLUB
OFFERS VARIETY OF SERIES, BOTH OF SOVIET AND FOREIGN FILMS,

REPRISING WORK OF PARTICULAR DIRECTOR OR FOCUSING ON A GENRE. THEATER ITSELF ACCOMMODATES APPROXIMATELY 300 SEATS WITH ATTENDANCE REGULARLY COMPOSED OF MOVIE BUFFS WITH STRONG PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO CINEMA. LECTURES ACCOMPANY FILM SHOWINGS. GRIFFITH RETROSPECTIVE IS NOT FIRST TIME AMERICAN FILMS HAVE BEEN FEATURED. IN ADDITION, WITHIN PAST FOUR YEARS BOTH LILLIAN GISH AND TBILISI-BORN AMERICAN FILM DIRECTOR ROUBEN MAMOULIAN HAVE PARTICIPATED IN CLUB PROGRAMS.
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